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Student Financial Safety Net Replenished

AULISTAR MARK REPORTER

Dwayne Sealey, 20, found out about The New School's Petrie Student Emergency Fund from a chance meeting with Eileen Doyle, vice president of student financial services, at the LaGuardia Scholarship dinner in February. The LaGuardia Scholarship awards five \$100,000 scholarships to some of the top New York City high school students.

"I had not heard of [the fund] before that night," Sealey said. "I told her about my [broken] laptop and asked if I would be eligible to receive a grant from the fund, to which she said, 'Yes.' I e-mailed her and she forwarded my e-mail to Karen Conner-Wilson."

Conner-Wilson is the entry contact for the emergency fund. Along with the rest of the emergency fund committee, she reviews applications to determine whether the emergency in question merits the use of the fund. According to Conner-Wilson, the process can take several days once an application is turned in.

Sealey had broken his laptop and was relying on spare computers in the university computer center and his brother's laptop. "This made getting work done more difficult, because sometimes there would be no computers available at the lab or my brother would be busy doing his own school work on his computer at home," Sealey said.

Like many seniors in the final undergraduate dash, Sealey was dependent on his laptop for his senior thesis class. He spends five hours and 40 minutes working in class, with countless more hours spent completing work outside. The \$1,000 from the fund made a considerable difference in his life, as he combined it with his financial aid refund check in order to purchase a brand new MacBook Pro.

The emergency fund, formally called the Petrie Foundation Student Emergency Fund at The New School, was created in 2008 after the university was awarded \$300,000 from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation. The fund was originally intended to last three years, but became nearly depleted by 2010.

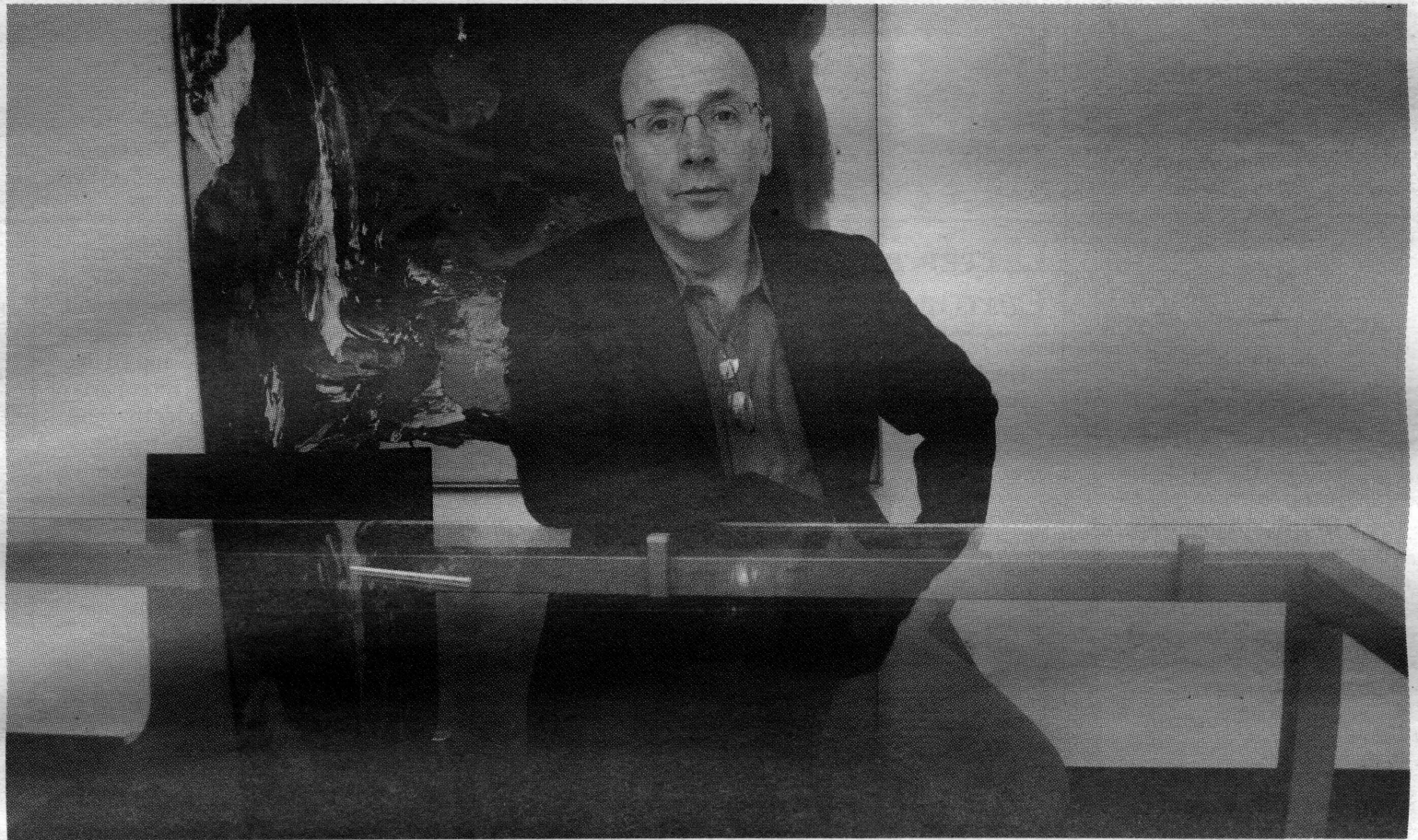
However, The New School's administration approved the use of university money to replenish the fund.

Doyle said the emergency fund has served 78 students, covering a variety of emergency expenses, including uninsured medical appointments, homelessness, and even MetroCards.

The Petrie Student Emer-

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Lang Dean Abruptly Announces Departure



Neil Gordon is the third dean to leave Eugene Lang College in the past six years. Before his deanship, he was a professor and chair of the writing program

JICA GONZALEZ

AIDAN GARDINER NEWS EDITOR
ELISA DELJANIN STAFF WRITER

In a move that took many at The New School by surprise, Provost Tim Marshall announced on April 13 that he had accepted the request of Neil Gordon, dean of Eugene Lang College, to not renew his contract when it expires this July.

"[Gordon's] work with Lang College has been transformative," Marshall wrote in an e-mail message to the university. "He has worked diligently and effectively to advance the college as both a liberal arts college of growing national importance and as a major contributor to The New School's broader academic mission." Marshall declined to comment further on Gordon's departure, citing concerns that he had yet to consult with Lang faculty.

New School President Bob Kerrey also declined to comment. At the same time, those close to the contract negotiation process also refrained from commenting, because discussions regarding employment at The New School are deemed confidential. When the provost's announcement was e-mailed, Gordon—the third Lang dean in six years—was in Southern California.

"It was a very hard decision for me to make," said Gordon in a telephone interview. "I love Lang."

During his two years in the deanship, Gordon was considered by many to be a successful fundraiser. He is said to have extended great efforts and time pursuing new donors for Lang across the country. In addition, he increased enroll-

ment from 1,347 to 1,439 and aggressively pursued new faculty and staff hires.

"It took me a long time to be ready to give up on the work I'm doing," Gordon added. "I feel it's the right thing for me and the right time to

"Neil's been a really strong dean for Lang. [The announcement] may come as a surprise."

do it for the college."

Gordon plans to take a sabbatical and return in 2011 to his former position among the Lang faculty as a tenured professor in the literary studies department.

He declined, however, to elaborate on the reasons underlying his request not to renew his contract as

dean. To both faculty and students at Lang, the move raised a number of questions.

Many noted that Gordon's decision not to renew his contract seemed at odds with the recent push by Lang's faculty to support the extension of Gordon's deanship.

On November 5, the Lang faculty voted to recommend that the university administration offer Gordon a three-year

contract extension. Coming after hours of impassioned debate over protocol, an extended discussion of Gordon's deanship, and a report to the faculty by Gordon himself, the faculty vote was viewed as a show of overwhelming support for Gordon. The faculty voted 61 in favor

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Parsons Alumn Found Dead

New School mourns promising designer

AIDAN GARDINER NEWS EDITOR
ASHLEY CHERVINSKI REPORTER

A young lighting designer and Parsons alumnus was found dead in his 90th Street apartment early on the morning of April 12.

Alejandro Bulaevsky, 26, who graduated from Parsons in 2007 with a masters in lighting design, was sprawled out on the kitchen floor of his uptown apartment when police found him. Police say he was found wearing a latex body suit and mask, with his hands handcuffed behind his back.

Police said that they found no evidence of a burglary in the apartment.

The cause of Bulaevsky's death remains unknown.

Bulaevsky's work has been featured at Claremont University,

a new eco-friendly low-energy Chipotle, and several chic restaurants in Las Vegas and New York City.

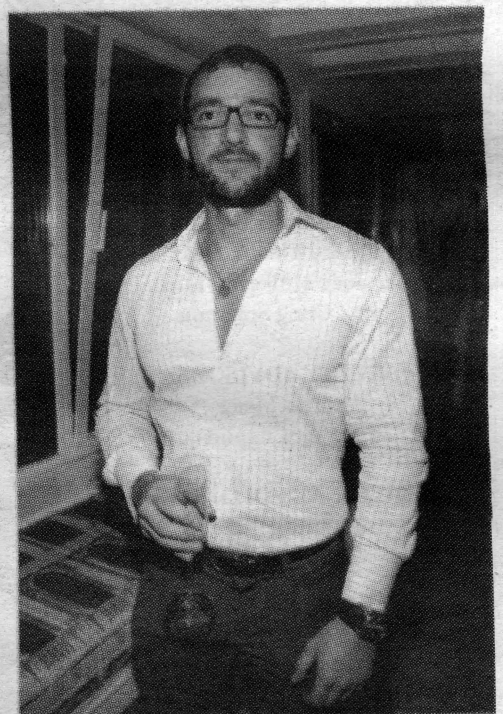
"He was an interesting individual," said Derek Porter, director of the Parsons MFA program and member of the lighting faculty. "Very dynamic, very intense. He talked fast, he moved fast, he worked crazy hours—he was kind of the typical mad scientist."

"He had an amazing technical mind," Porter added. "He was doing some very advanced research and science with controls and with LED lighting technologies. I'm very confident he would have been a pioneer in the field."

The university expressed its condolences in an official statement on April 13. "The university is deeply saddened by the loss of a promising alum and sends its sympathies

to Alejandro's family, friends, and those who knew him while he was a student at The New School," read the statement.

Porter said that Bulaevsky would often return to Parsons to help current students with their work. "Last Thursday he was here meeting with students, and I hadn't seen him in a while, so I said hello and we talked for 30 seconds or so," Porter said. "He was happy, smiling, enthusiastic, just normal Alejandro. Everything seemed perfectly, you know, normal in every regard."



Alejandro Bulaevsky graduated from Parsons in 2007

COURTESY OF PATRICK McMULLAN